

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Asian Pacific Islander
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACLF Welcomes our CAPAA Fellows, Lea Aromin-Morgan and Ben Sung Henry

OLYMPIA, WA - Lea Aromin-Morgan is a recent 2009 CLP alumni. Lea is currently pursuing her Master's in Social Work at the University of Washington. She works with the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center as her practicum placement. In 2009, Lea conducted outreach/education on domestic violence and sexual assault issues in the API community with the Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center (APIWFSC). Prior to returning to school, she was an advocate/case manager at the largest DV shelter in Arizona, Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees (COAR), and volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for neglected/abused children.

As a CLP 09 participant, Lea was critical in the development of a culturally relevant Census 2010 exhibit, translated in 8 different API languages, which currently rotates between ACLF's 9 local API Census partners and their nonprofit locations serving significant API populations. Lea believes the CAPAA ACLF Fellowship will supplement her non-profit direct service skills and community practice framework by providing an opportunity to strengthen skills in policy level analysis and ultimately broaden the scope of her social work education to include an API focus. Through the Fellowship, she hopes to gain valuable skills in the policy process and learn more about how it directly and indirectly affects vulnerable populations, specifically API women and youth.

Ben Sung Henry is a student at the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs with a focus on social policy, and is expected to earn a Master's in Public Administration in 2011. Born of an immigrant mother from South Korea who is now a successful Tacoma businesswoman, Henry has lived in the Puget Sound area for three years. He grew up in the ethnic melting pot of Honolulu, Hawaii, where he attended one of the most culturally diverse universities in the country, Hawaii Pacific University, graduating with honors.

After a 10-year journalism career working as a newspaper production editor and investigative reporter, Henry has been elected to represent the Evans School in UW's Graduate and Professional

Agency Overview: The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State. Visit us at www.capaa.wa.gov

Student Senate. He currently sits on UW's Board of Publications and, as an officer of the Evans School Student Association, sits on the inaugural Research Symposium Steering Committee. "My personal career mission is to work to improve the lives of those around me, empower the disenfranchised, and make government perform better and more efficiently," Henry said. "This fellowship is a valuable opportunity to do all that at the same time."

With the start of Olympia's legislative session last week, Lea and Ben are already busy getting oriented with the Fellowship and the legislative process, attending committee hearings and shadowing elected officials.

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